

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 01045 170641Z

16
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 INRE-00 /054 W
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O 170605Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5080
INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE
JCS
CINCPAC

S E C R E T CANBERRA 1045

SECDEF FOR ISA
CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, AS, OVIP (CLEMENTS, WILLIAM P. JR.)
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS

REF: A) SECDEF 1406; B) STATE 34069; C) CANBERRA 1022

1. CHARGE RAISED PROPOSED VISIT BY DEPSECDEF WITH ALAN RENOUF (SECRETARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS) FEB 14, EXPLAINING THAT DEPSECDEF WAS RESPONDING TO BARNARD INVITATION, THAT HE HAD LONG WISHED TO VISIT AUSTRALIA FOR FAMILIARIZATION WITH JOINT FACILITIES, THAT DEPSEC WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID PUBLICITY AND THAT HE WOULD VALUE GOA ADVICE ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE PRESS. CHARGE GAVE RENOUF A COPY OF PROPOSED ITINERARY.

2. RENOUF (WHO HAD HAD TIME TO BRIEF HIMSELF BEFORE DISCUSSION) BELIEVES THAT POLITICAL PROBLEMS ARE MANAGEABLE. HE WILL CONSULT WITHIN GOA ON ITINERARY AND PRESS TREATMENT AND BE BACK TO US QUICKLY. HE MAY SUGGEST THAT SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OFFICER

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(POSSIBLY ROY FERNANDEZ) ESCORT DEPSEC ON VISITS TO

JOINT FACILITIES.

3. RENOUF SAID HE HAD BEEN PLEASED BY WHITLAM STATEMENT ON JOINT FACILITIES AT TERRIGAL LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE AND HOPED THAT WE HAD BEEN ALSO. CHARGE ASSURED HIM THAT PRIME MINISTER'S PUBLIC SUPPORT OF FACILITIES HAD BEEN MOST WELCOME AND APPRECIATED. RENOUF ADDED THAT HE KNEW OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT TERRIGAL REGARDING PRG WERE LESS WELCOME. CONVERSATION ON THIS TOPIC REPORTED SEPTTEL.

4. COMMENT: IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER RENOUF HAS ALREADY CHECKED WITH WHITLAM ON PROPOSED DEPSECDEF VISIT OR WILL NOW DO SO. AT ANY RATE, HE SEEMED RELAXED AND POSITIVE AND WE CAN ANTICIPATE FAVORABLE CONFIRMATION OF GOA WELCOME FOR DEPSEC CLEMENTS. HARROP

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NNN

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